Custodial deaths

*135. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed its concern over the rise in custodial deaths and torture of suspects and asked Government to seriously consider the Law Commission's recommendations to change the Evidence Act for curbing such offences and punishing erring police officials; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court, while delivering its judgement in D.K. Basu *vs.* State of West Bengal and others, took note of the need to amend the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act in order to contain the rise in the case of custodial violence, in line with the recommendations of the Law Commission.

Criminal Laws (both substantive and procedural) are subjects included in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Accordingly the recommendations of the Law Commission on matters relating to Criminal Law have been sent to all the State Governments/UT Administration for their comments. A decision to initiate further amendments to the procedural law including the evidence act will depend on the views of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 was introduced in Parliament in 1994 proposing to amend the Cr. P.C. to provide for, *inter alia :*

(i) Prohibition on the arrest of women before sunrise and after sunset except in unavoidable circumstances.

(ii) Mandatory provision for supplying information of detainee or arrested person to his friend/relative nominated by him;

(iii) Furnishing of a copy of medical report to the detainee when requested by him; and

(iv) Mandatory judicial inquiry in a case of alleged death, disappearance, or rape in custody.

Modernisation of textile units

*136. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has extended soft loans in the textile sector for modernisation of textile units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how long it will take for the textile sector to take the full benefit of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production and consumption of coal

*137. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA : DR. ABRAR AHMED :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production and domestic consumption of coal during Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether there is any gap between production and consumption of coal; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to fill the gap?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has projected that against the estimated demand for coal by the end of the Tenth Plan (2006-07) of 460.50 million tonnes (M.T.) the domestic supply of coal will be of the order of 405 M.T. which is likely to result in a demand supply gap of the order of 55 M.T. In respect of the projections for the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12). the Working Group on Coal and Lignite in its report for the Tenth Plan has estimated a demand of 620 M.T. and domestic production of 525 M.T. which is likely to result in a demand supply gap of the order of 95 M.T.